

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 were pending in the Office Action, and upon entry of the present amendment, claims 6 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 9-20 are added. Claims 1, 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,433); claims 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over an alleged modification of Ge et al.; and claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over an alleged combination of Ge et al. and Matsuno et al. Additionally, the Office Action objects to the drawings for including reference characters not appearing in the specification, and to claims 6 and 8 for being duplicative of other pending claims.

With regard to the objections to the drawings, the enclosed Replacement Sheets include revised reference characters, replacing numerals 31 and 36 in Figures 1-5 with numerals 21 and 26, respectively. The present amendment also amends paragraph [0032] of the specification to include use of reference numeral 13, as discussed with respect to the Fig. 3 embodiment. Applicants submit that these amendments do not introduce new matter to the specification, and that these objections are now rendered moot.

Turning now to the prior art rejections, the Office Action relies on Ge et al. to reject independent claims 1 and 7. Ge et al. relates to a specific type of fluorescent device, and the Office Action refers to Ge et al. Fig. 12 layer 109 to show the claimed electrically conductive layer. Ge et al., however, is silent as to how layer 109 is added to its device. Indeed, at column 9, lines 21-22, Ge et al. simply states that its layer 109 is formed, with no further detail on how this layer is formed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ge et al. cannot, and does not, teach or suggest either the claim 1 or the claim 7 method, each of which recites "dipping said lamp vessel in an ultrasonic tub."

Similarly, new independent claim 9 recites the step of:

dipping a portion of said lamp vessel into a solder tub
containing molten solder material; and

applying ultrasonic vibration to the molten solder to form an
electrically conductive layer on said portion of said lamp vessel.

Ge et al. does not teach or suggest the claim 9 method, which includes these steps. The other

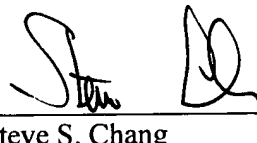
cited reference, Matsuno et al., does not overcome this deficiency. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 7 and 9 distinguish over the applied references, and are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5 and 10-20 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9, and further in view of the various features recited therein.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that pending claims 1-5, 7 and 9-20 distinguish over the applied references, and are in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner feel that additional discussion and/or amendment may be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By: 
Steve S. Chang
Registration No. 42,402

Banner & Witcoff, LTD.
1001 G. Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
202 824-3000